



## Biden and López Obrador talked fentanyl and U.S.-Mexico migration

By COLLEEN LONG and  
AAMER MADHANI

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

President Joe Biden and Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador pledged Friday to work side-by-side to confront illicit fentanyl trafficking into the U.S. and to manage the growing number of migrants traveling north to the border between their nation.

Biden's relationship with López Obrador has at times been tense, in part because of Biden's willingness to criticize Mexico on topics such as fentanyl production and the killing of journalists. And López Obrador isn't afraid to snub the U.S. leader. He skipped a Los Angeles summit last year where leaders tackled the issue of migration because the U.S. didn't invite Cuba, Nicaragua or Venezuela. He also initially said he would skip this year's APEC conference, but changed his mind.



President Joe Biden and Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador chat prior to having the official photo taken during the North America Summit, at the National Palace in Mexico City, Jan. 10, 2023.

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# Biden and López Obrador talked fentanyl and U.S.-Mexico migration

Continued from Front

The two men were all smiles and compliments before the press on Friday, with Biden telling López Obrador: "I couldn't have a better partner than you," and the Mexican leader calling Biden a "good man" and an "extraordinary president." They were in San Francisco for the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference, where Biden has held a series of face-to-face meetings with other leaders, including China's President Xi Jinping and the leaders of Japan and South Korea, as he seeks to reassure the region that the U.S. and China are competitors, not zero-sum rivals.

Biden and Lopez Obrador set to work talking migration as the U.S. strains to manage a rising number of southern border crossings. They also discussed deadly fentanyl trafficking, particularly after Biden secured an agreement with Xi to curb the illicit opioid. Mexico and China are the primary sources for synthetic fentanyl trafficked into the U.S. Nearly all the chemicals needed to make it come from China, and the drugs are then mass-produced in Mexico and trafficked via cartels into the U.S. "I want to tell you about my great conversation with Xi Jinping on that issue," Biden told López Obrador. The issues of fentanyl and immigration are related. Human smuggling over the



President Joe Biden meets with Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador at the APEC summit, Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

border is a part of cartel operations that also include drug trafficking into the U.S. "We're working side-by-side to combat organized crime," Biden said. The powerful opioid is the deadliest drug in the U.S. today. More than 100,000 deaths a year have been linked to drug overdoses since 2020 and about two-thirds of those are related to fentanyl. The annual death toll is more than 10 times the level in 1988, at the height of the crack epidemic. "We're aware of the damage it poses to the United States youth," López Obrador said through an interpreter. And migration challenges facing the U.S.

are growing increasingly intractable. Democratic leaders at the state and local level are begging for federal assistance to help care for migrant families living in squalid shelters and sleeping in police stations. Republicans are loudly critical of Biden's border policies as too lax. And Congress has not passed an immigration overhaul in decades. Biden asked for \$14 billion from Congress for border security but the temporary spending bill he just signed did not have funding for the border, Ukraine aid or Israel. There are rising numbers of migrants at the border. Arrests for illegal crossings along the U.S.-Mexico line

were up 21% to 218,763 in September, and Biden has repeatedly said Congress should act to fix outdated immigration laws. But in the meantime, his administration has developed policies that aim to deter migrants from making a dangerous and often deadly journey while also opening up new legal immigration pathways. Mexico's support is critical to any push by the U.S. to clamp down at the southern border, particularly as migrants from nations as far away as Haiti are making the trek on foot up through Mexico and are not easily sent back to their home countries. López Obrador said the administration's poli-

cies of cracking down on illegal crossings while opening up other legal pathways for others to come to the U.S. lawfully was "a humane way to address the migration phenomenon."

Earlier this year, Mexico agreed to continue to accept migrants from Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba and Nicaragua who are turned away at the border, and up to 100,000 people from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador who have family in the U.S. will be eligible to live and work there.

According to data on asylum-seekers in Mexico, people from Haiti remained at the top with 18,860 so far this year, higher than the total for the whole of 2022.

Meanwhile, the U.S. is accepting 30,000 people per month from the four countries for two years and offering them the ability to work, as long as they come legally, have eligible sponsors and pass vetting and background checks.

Guatemala and Colombia will open regional hubs where people can go to make asylum claims in the hope of stopping them from traveling on foot. But Mexico has so far refused to allow the U.S. to set one up.

López Obrador said earlier that he would also use Friday's meeting with Biden to take up the case for Cuba and would urge his U.S. counterpart to resume a dialogue with the island nation and end U.S. sanctions. □



Employee Quint Palermo wears union pins on their jacket as Starbucks workers participate in a walkout and strike during the company's Red Cup Day Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, at the company's first Reserve roastery in Seattle.

Associated Press

By DEE-ANN DURBIN  
AP Business Writer

The federal government is

delaying a new rule that could make it easier for millions of workers to unionize

## U.S. labor board delays new employment rule after business groups sue

after business groups challenged it in court.

The National Labor Relations Board said Thursday that the rule — which was scheduled to go into effect in December — will now be effective Feb. 26. The board said the delay will give it time to resolve legal challenges.

The rule sets new standards for determining when two companies should be considered "joint employers" in labor negotiations. Un-

der the current NLRB rule, which was passed by a Republican-dominated board in 2020, a company like McDonald's isn't considered a joint employer of most of its workers since they are directly employed by franchisees.

But the new rule would expand that definition, saying companies may be considered joint employers if they have the ability to control — directly or indirectly — at least one condition of em-

ployment. Conditions include wages and benefits, hours and scheduling, the assignment of duties, work rules and hiring.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups — including the American Hotel and Lodging Association, the International Franchise Association and the National Retail Federation — sued the NLRB in federal court in Texas last week to block the rule. □



# Columbia, Cornell and other colleges face U.S. inquiries over alleged antisemitism and Islamophobia

By COLLIN BINKLEY  
AP Education Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The federal government has opened civil rights investigations into seven schools and universities over allegations of antisemitism or Islamophobia since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war.

The list includes three Ivy League institutions Columbia, Cornell and the University of Pennsylvania along with Wellesley College in Massachusetts, Lafayette College in Pennsylvania and Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York. It also includes one K-12 system, the Maize Unified School District in Kansas.

The Education Department announced the inquiries on Thursday, calling it part of the Biden administration's effort to take "aggressive action" against discrimination. Schools found to have violated civil rights law can face penalties up to a total loss of federal money, although the vast majority of cases end in voluntary



Pro-Palestinian demonstrators gather for a protest at Columbia University, Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

settlements.

Schools have a legal duty to act "when students are targeted because they are or are perceived to be Jewish, Muslim, Arab, Sikh or any other ethnicity or shared ancestry," Education Secretary Miguel

Cardona said in a written statement.

Five of the investigations are in response to allegations of antisemitic harassment, while two are in response to allegations of anti-Muslim harassment, the department said. The

agency did not disclose which schools faced which accusations. Details about individual complaints were not released.

Penn and Wellesley were accused of antisemitism in federal complaints filed last week by the Brandeis Cen-

ter, a Jewish legal advocacy group.

In a Nov. 9 letter to the Education Department, the center says Penn professors have made antisemitic statements in the classroom and on social media. It said many Jewish students are afraid to be on campus during pro-Palestinian rallies, and that the university has done little to support them.

Penn officials said they're cooperating with the investigation.

University President Liz Magill "has made clear antisemitism is vile and pernicious and has no place at Penn," the school said. "The university will continue to vigilantly combat antisemitism and all forms of hate."

A separate letter from the Brandeis Center said Wellesley has failed to address antisemitism. It cites an email that some dorm advisers sent to residents saying "there should be no space, no consideration, and no support for Zionism" at Wellesley. □

# The flu is soaring in seven U.S. states and rising in others

By MIKE STOBBE  
AP Medical Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The U.S. flu season is underway, with at least seven states reporting high levels of illnesses and cases rising in other parts of the country, health officials say. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted new flu data on Friday, showing very high activity last week in Louisiana, and high activity in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, New Mexico and South Carolina. It was also high in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, the U.S. territory where health officials declared an influenza epidemic earlier this month.

"We're off to the races," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University infectious diseases expert. Traditionally, the winter flu



A flu vaccine is readied at the L.A. Care and Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plans' Community Resource Center in Lynwood, Calif., on Friday, Oct. 28, 2022.

Associated Press

season ramps up in December or January. But it took off in October last year, and is making a November entrance this year. Flu activity was moderate but rising in New York City, Arkansas, California, Mary-

land, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. And while flu activity has been high in Alaska for weeks, the state did not report data last week, so it wasn't part of the latest count.

Tracking during flu season relies in part on reports of people with flu-like symptoms who go to doctor's offices or hospitals; many people with the flu are not tested, so their infections aren't lab-confirmed. COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses can sometimes muddy the picture.

Alicia Budd, who leads the CDC's flu surveillance team, said several indicators are showing "continued increases" in flu.

There are different kinds of flu viruses, and the version that's been spreading the most so far this year usually leads to a lesser amount of hospitalizations and deaths in the elderly the group on whom flu tends to take the largest toll.

So far this fall, the CDC estimates at least 780,000 flu illnesses, at least 8,000 hospi-

talizations and at least 490 flu-related deaths including at least one child.

Budd said that it's not yet clear exactly how effective the current flu vaccines are, but the shots are well-matched to the flu strains that are showing up. In the U.S., about 35% of U.S. adults and 33% of children have been vaccinated against flu, current CDC data indicates. That's down compared to last year in both categories.

Flu vaccination rates are better than rates for the other two main respiratory viruses COVID-19 and RSV. About 14% of adults and 5% of children have gotten the currently recommended COVID-19 shot, and about 13.5% of adults 60 and older have gotten one of the RSV shots that became available earlier this year. □



# Rosalynn Carter, 96-year-old former first lady, is in hospice care at home, Carter Center says

By **BILL BARROW**  
**Associated Press**

Former first lady Rosalynn Carter is in hospice care at home in Plains, Georgia, the Carter Center announced Friday.

The center said the 96-year-old is at home with former President Jimmy Carter, now 99. The Carter family said through the statement that they are "grateful for the outpouring of love and support."

The family announced earlier this year that the former first lady is suffering from dementia. The former president entered hospice care at home in February.

They have been married for more than 77 years, through his rise from their Georgia farm to his election to the presidency in 1976. After his 1980 defeat, the couple established The Carter Center in Atlanta as a global center to advocate human rights, democracy and public health.

"The best thing I ever had happen in my life was when she said she'd marry me," Jimmy Carter said, long after leaving the Oval Office.



The former first lady Rosalynn Carter speaks to the press at conference at The Carter Center on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, in Atlanta.

The couple's grandson, Jason Carter, described his grandmother in a recent interview as the former president's "partner No. 1, 2 and 3," and the former first couple themselves both agreed that she has been the more aggressive political personality of their long

pairing. In Washington, the political press of the late 1970s dubbed Rosalynn Carter "the Steel Magnolia," reflecting the quiet grace stereotypical of the era's Southern political wives and a tough core that made her a force on her

husband's behalf and in her own right.

"She knew what she wanted to accomplish," said Kathy Cade, a White House adviser to Rosalynn Carter. Expanding the role of first lady, she worked in her own office in the East Wing, with her own staff, on her own

initiatives. She also huddled with the president's advisers and sat in on top-level meetings, raising eyebrows in Washington power circles.

"She didn't say anything in Cabinet meetings, but she wanted to be fully informed so she could give her husband good advice," said Carter biographer Jonathan Alter.

Alter considers Rosalynn Carter's only peers as influential first ladies to be Eleanor Roosevelt and Hillary Clinton, although he said the Carters' partnership was more seamless, because it lacked the infidelity and personal drama of the Roosevelts and Clintons.

The bond also involved friendly rivalry and humor: "I never knew I'd be married to somebody that old," he wisecracked when Rosalynn was 91.

They often raced to finish writing their next books or best the other in tennis, skiing or any other pursuit.

Rosalynn was at the center of Carter's political campaigns, starting with his first state Senate race in 1962. □

# Haitian immigrants sue Indiana over law that limits driver's license access

By **ISABELLA VOLMERT**  
**Associated Press**

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — A federal judge heard arguments Friday from lawyers for a group of Indiana

residents from Haiti who are suing the state over a law that allows immigrants in the U.S. on humanitarian parole to get driver's licenses, but only if they are

from Ukraine. The five plaintiffs say the law passed this year is discriminatory and unconstitutional, and they asked the court to strike down the law's provision that limits its scope to people from Ukraine.

U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Walton Pratt said she will issue a ruling at an unspecified date.

The lawsuit was filed in August against the Commissioner of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The plaintiffs are represented by attorneys with the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana and the National Immigration Law Center.

The law provides an avenue for immigrants on humanitarian parole from Ukraine to obtain driver's

licenses and identification cards. The class-action lawsuit seeks to force the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to offer the same opportunities to immigrants on humanitarian parole from other countries.

Attorneys argue in court documents that the law violates the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution. It also creates its own immigration classifications, which is an authority reserved by the federal government, they contend. ACLU lawyer Gavin Rose described the law in court as "a textbook example of national origin discrimination." Four of the five Haitian immigrants who are all on humanitarian pa-

role live in rural areas without public transportation, according to court documents. They rely on others for rides to work and other everyday activities such as grocery shopping. The final plaintiff is a minor who wishes to receive an identification card, the documents state. The lead plaintiff, Jefferson Saint-Hilaire, 25, said he came to the U.S. to provide for his mother and two sisters who live in Haiti. "I just want to be self-sufficient, self-reliable," he told reporters. "But how can I do that without a driver's license?"

According to the complaint, Saint-Hilaire was admitted to the U.S. in March and is employed as an electrician's assistant. □



Leading plaintiff Jefferson Saint-Hilaire, 25, speaks to reporters outside the Bayh Federal Building U.S. Courthouse in Indianapolis Friday, Nov. 17, 2023.

Associated Press



# Thousands of bodies lie buried in rubble in Gaza

By **WAFAA SHURAF** and  
**SAMY MAGDY**

Associated Press

**DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)** — The wreckage goes on for block after devastated block. The smell is sickening. Every day, hundreds of people claw through tons of rubble with shovels and iron bars and their bare hands.

They are looking for the bodies of their children. Their parents. Their neighbors. All of them killed in Israeli missile strikes. The corpses are there, somewhere in the endless acres of destruction.

More than five weeks into Israel's war against Hamas, some streets are more like graveyards. Officials in Gaza say they don't have the equipment, manpower or fuel to search properly for the living, let alone the dead.

Israel says its strikes target fighters and the infrastructure of Hamas, the militant group behind the deadly Oct. 7 attack that killed about 1,200 people in Israel. Hamas often operates in residential areas, and Israel accuses it of using the civilian population as human shields, though it does not explain specific targeting reasons for most strikes.

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**Palestinians recover the bodies of the al Meghari family killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Bureij refugee camp, Gaza Strip, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023.**

Associated Press

The victims are often everyday Palestinians, many of whom have yet to be found.

Omar al-Darawi and his neighbors have spent weeks searching the ruins of a pair of four-story houses in central Gaza. Forty-five people lived in the homes; 32 were killed. In the first days after the attack, 27 bodies were recovered.

The five still missing were al-Darawi's cousins.

They include Amani, a

37-year-old stay-at-home mom whose husband and four children also died. There's Aliaa, 28, who was taking care of her aging parents. There's another Amani, who died with her 14-year-old daughter. Her husband and their five sons survived.

"The situation has become worse every day," said the 23-year-old, who was once a college journalism student. The smell has become unbearable.

"We can't stop," he said. "We just want to find and bury them" before their bodies are lost in the rubble forever.

More than 11,400 Palestinians have been killed, two-thirds of them women and minors, according to Palestinian health authorities. The U.N. humanitarian affairs office estimates that about 2,700 people, including 1,500 children, are missing and believed buried in the ruins.

The missing add layers of pain to Gaza's families, who are overwhelmingly Muslim. Islam calls for the dead to be buried quickly within 24 hours if possible with the shrouded bodies turned to face the holy city of Mecca.

Traditionally, the body is washed by family members with soap and scented water, and prayers for forgiveness are said at the gravesite.

The search is particularly difficult in northern Gaza, including Gaza City, where Israeli ground forces are battling Hamas militants. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled southward, terrified by the combat and pushed by Israeli warnings to evacuate. In the south, continued Israeli airstrikes and shelling mean nowhere is safe in the tiny territory.

The Palestinian Civil Defense department, Gaza's primary search-and-rescue force, has had more than two dozen workers killed and over 100 injured since the war began, said spokesman Mahmoud Basal.

More than half its vehicles are either without fuel or damaged by strikes, he said. □

## EU nations reach major breakthrough to stop shipping plastic waste to poor countries

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**

Associated Press

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — The European Union made a major breakthrough Friday in efforts to stop sending its plastic trash to poor countries. Under a tentative agreement, the 27 EU countries will no longer be able to export their plastic waste outside the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development club of wealthy countries.

The text now needs to be formally approved by both the council representing the EU member states and the EU Parliament to enter into force.

Only a third of plastic waste

in Europe is recycled, and half of the plastic collected for recycling is exported

to be treated in countries outside the EU. "The EU will finally assume responsibility

for its plastic waste by banning its export to non-OECD countries," said Pernille Weiss, the EU Parliament rapporteur. "Once again, we follow our vision that waste is a resource when it is properly managed, but should not in any case be causing harm to the environment or human health." In addition, plastic waste exports to the 38 OECD countries "will be subject to stricter conditions, including an obligation to apply the prior written notification and consent procedure, and closer compliance monitoring," the Parliament said. The deal was announced as United

Nations-led negotiations for a treaty aimed at cutting plastics pollution take place in Kenya.

After a period of five years following the introduction of the regulation, non-OECD countries will have the option to ask the EU Commission the bloc's executive arm for the right to import plastic waste and the ban will be lifted if they prove they can treat it properly.

The EU Commission said negotiators agreed to set up a group to coordinate the action of member countries to make sure illegal shipments are detected and prevented. □



**Plastic waste runs on conveyor belts at a new plastic waste sorting facility in Motala, central Sweden, Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023.**

Associated Press



## Russian authorities ask the Supreme Court to declare the LGBTQ 'movement' extremist

By DASHA LITVINOVA

Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) —

The Russian Justice Ministry on Friday said it has filed a lawsuit with the nation's Supreme Court to outlaw the LGBTQ+ "international public movement" as extremist, the latest crippling blow against the already beleaguered LGBTQ+ community in the increasingly conservative country.

The ministry said in an on-line statement announcing the lawsuit that authorities have identified "signs and manifestations of extremist nature" in "the activities of the LGBT movement active" in Russia, including "incitement of social and religious discord." Russia's Supreme Court has scheduled a hearing to consider the lawsuit for Nov. 30, the ministry said.

It is not yet clear what exactly the label would entail for LGBTQ+ people in Russia if the Supreme Court sides with the Justice Ministry, and the ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. But the move in itself represents the latest, and possibly by far the most drastic, step in the



LGBT activists hold their flag at a rally to collect signatures to cancel the results of voting on amendments to the Constitution in Pushkin Square in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, July 15, 2020.

Associated Press

decade-long crackdown on gay rights in Russia unleashed under President Vladimir Putin, who has put "traditional family values" at the cornerstone of his rule.

The crackdown, which began a decade ago, slowly but surely chipped away at LGBTQ+ rights. In 2013, the Kremlin adopted the first

legislation restricting LGBTQ+ rights, known as the "gay propaganda" law, banning any non-critical public depiction of "non-traditional sexual relations" among minors. In 2020, Putin pushed through a constitutional reform to extend his rule by two more terms that also outlawed same-sex marriage.

In 2022, after sending troops into Ukraine, the Kremlin ramped up its rhetoric about protecting "traditional values" from what it called the West's "degrading" influence, in what rights advocates saw as an attempt to legitimize the war in Ukraine. That same year, the authorities adopted a law banning propa-

ganda of "nontraditional sexual relations" among adults, too, effectively outlawing any public endorsement of LGBTQ+ people.

Another law passed this year prohibited gender transitioning procedures and gender-affirming care for trans people. The legislation prohibited any "medical interventions aimed at changing the sex of a person," as well as changing one's gender in official documents and public records. It also amended Russia's Family Code by listing gender change as a reason to annul a marriage and adding those "who had changed gender" to a list of people who can't become foster or adoptive parents.

"Do we really want to have here, in our country, in Russia, 'Parent No. 1, No. 2, No. 3' instead of 'mom' and 'dad?'" Putin said in September 2022 at a ceremony to formalize Moscow's annexation of four Ukrainian regions. "Do we really want perversions that lead to degradation and extinction to be imposed in our schools from the primary grades?" □

## More than 2,400 Ukrainian children taken to Belarus, a Yale study finds

By YURAS KARMANAU

Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) —

More than 2,400 Ukrainian children aged 6-17 have been taken to Belarus from four regions of Ukraine that are partially occupied by Russian forces, a study by Yale University has found. The study, released Thursday by the Humanitarian Research Lab of the Yale School of Public Health, which receives funding from the U.S. State Department, found that "Russia's systematic effort to identify, collect, transport, and re-educate Ukraine's children has been facilitated by Belarus," and is

"ultimately coordinated" between Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Belarus' authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko.

"Belarus' direct involvement in Russia's forced deportation of children represents a collaboration" between the two, "with various pro-Russia and pro-regime organizations facilitating the deportation of children from Ukraine," the research said.

According to the study, at least 2,442 children, including those with disabilities, were taken to Belarus from 17 cities of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine

between Feb. 24, 2022 and Oct. 30, 2023. The effort has been described in great detail in the 40-page report.

From the occupied Ukrainian regions, the children were taken to the Russian southern city of Rostov-on-Don, and then put on a train to Belarus. The transportation was funded by the Belarusian state, and state organizations were involved per Lukashenko's approval. A total of 2,050 of them were taken to the Dubrava children's center in the Minsk region of Belarus, while the other 392 were brought to 13 other facilities across the country.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko shake hands during their meeting in Sochi, Russia, on Sept. 15, 2023.

Associated Press

There, the children were subjected to re-education and military training, including with Belarus' law enforcement and security services, the report said. It also named several key players involved in the ef-

fort, including Belarusian public figure Alyaksei Talai, Belarus' state-owned potash producer Belaruskali, the Belarusian Republican Youth Union, and pro-Russia ultranationalist motorcycle clubs. □



## Meals on Wheels Program in Aruba with a Food Extravaganza & Auction!

**The Meals on Wheels Program in Aruba has been going on for 54 years. We have served many people who are shut-ins, elderly and families that are unable to financial provide food to their families. Next week, they are having their wonderful Food Extravaganza & Auction, and here's how you can support.**

Doctors and social workers provide the names to be sure the persons needing help are not getting help from other organizations. 2 hot meals are delivered weekly, Tuesdays and Fridays. All freshly cooked

food cooked for the day of delivery. To this date, we serve 80 people and have a wait list. We are in need of more funds and more workers to donate their time so we can cover a larger area. Food is prepared in the John Wesley Auditorium in San Nicholas which is owned by the Aruba Methodist Circuit. We would like to be able to help more people. Of course, more money is needed to provide more service to needed individuals.

This year, thanks to the 2 Silent Auctions and Food Extravanzas 2021 and 2022

that were supported by so many generous businesses in Aruba, we were able to purchase a used mini van. We feel blessed about this. As we continue to serve the Aruba people, please give us your support in this Food Extravaganza & Auction!

Our Account for Meals on Wheels with the Chamber of Commerce is The Aruba Methodist Church Foundation (non profit), Meals on Wheels \$512 Address Bernardstraat 245 San Nicolas. Our bank account is with the Aruba Bank - Aruba Methodist Church- Meals on Wheels- 2019966. □

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## Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

**SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.**

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

### Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find

three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barbershop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of

artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.

Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

### The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

### Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse

yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □





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### How it all began

It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11,000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This allowed for a lot more merchandise, products and employees. Supply and de-

mand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical business. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallego Straat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandise as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building. Ponson's General Store now had an electrical department, a housewares department, a paint department and a hardware department.

After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mother's vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced.

Fast forward to today. A Do it Center in Aruba, with more than 50,000 top of the line items for interior as well as exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

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Located in Shaba, Noord. This is the last sibling of the Do It Center family. Here you will be able to find anything you are looking for. The building is divided into several departments from home to hardware to groceries. Everything under one roof.

Groceries? Visit the fully stocked supermarket with fresh fruits and vegetables and high class meat selections. Highly known products and brands are here for you

to grab. Every week Do It Center Groceries offers its weekly special on selected items. Weekly specials are very popular and a perfect chance for you to buy your favorite products at a reduced price.

Need a home makeover? Do not skip the furniture department "Leenbakker". Here, you will find a divine collection of European furniture, worldwide known for their modern and stylish features for your bedroom, bathroom, living room or kitchen. For your garden they have a wide selection of durable furniture specially made for our tropical climate. Take a walk around and find some treasures. Find the perfect accessory for your house, fitted for your personality and style. Modern, elegant, retro industrial, whatever your style is you will definitely find something for your personal taste.

Do it Center Shaba is open from Monday to Saturday from 8AM to 8PM and on Sunday's from 9AM to 6PM. ☐

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## Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last gla-

cial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these

fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly



put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserving our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! ☐



## Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to travelling parents to list off some the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

### Baby Beach in San Nicolas

Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

### Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of

the Pos Chiquito city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

### Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are

one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

### Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

### Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close! ☐



## Did you know about... Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

### Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

### Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to



the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky

to navigate...

### Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules

don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

### Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is

used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

### "Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □





# National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

## Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

## The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.



The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

## Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic ex-

pressions. Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

## Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas. □





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

- 41 Alex Haley work  
1 Headed out  
5 Hotel workers  
10 Wise saying  
12 Don Draper, e.g.  
13 "Oh, how — to get up ..."  
14 Lofly  
15 Ring wins, for short  
16 Brunched  
18 Saloon order  
19 Secret stuff  
21 Surgery souvenir  
22 Road rescuers  
24 Thingamajig  
25 Lively tune  
29 Wander  
30 Girls in the family  
32 Verb for you  
33 Mayo buy  
34 Energy  
35 Date qualifier  
37 Justice Kagan  
39 Supply with funds  
40 Stadium tops

## DOWN

- 1 Early space dog  
2 Urge  
3 Utter failure  
4 Young one  
5 Lion's pride  
6 Bustle  
7 Return announce-ment  
8 Cowboys' home  
9 Insolent look  
11 Was serious  
17 Los Angeles section  
20 "Shucks!"  
21 Extent  
23 Called a game  
25 2006 Winter Games setting  
26 Carry too far  
27 Skin problem  
28 "Stand by Me" director  
29 Daytona entrant  
31 Twitch  
33 Spielberg movie  
36 Guest bed  
38 De-pressed

R	I	C	E	S	A	C	H	E	S
A	G	O	N	Y	R	H	O	N	E
I	N	N	E	R	M	A	T	T	E
D	O	T	U	P	B	R	A	I	D
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	B	O	P	E	S				
T	A	X	I	S	C	A	P	S	
D	A	S	O	U	T	L	I	T	
I	T	S	O	N	M	E	L	E	O
S	T	O	R	E	A	C	O	R	N
C	L	O	S	E	M	O	O	R	E
S	E	N	O	R	O	W	N	E	D

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12			
13						14			
15				16	17			18	
19			20			21			
	22				23				
		24							
	25	26					27	28	
29				30					31
32			33			34			
35		36			37	38			
39					40				
41						42			

11-18

AXYDIBAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-18

## CRYPTOQUOTE

Q G N U G J M Y H P C , V K  
L S T Q G O P , F H M J Y S T U K Y H .  
— J M U X C S O G U F U O O U M M  
C U O T K

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I GO TO NATURE TO BE SOOTHED AND HEALED, AND TO HAVE MY SENSES PUT IN ORDER. — JOHN BURROUGHS

# IBM and EU pull ads from Elon Musk's X as concerns about antisemitism fuel backlash

By KELVIN CHAN  
AP Business Writer

Advertisers are fleeing social media platform X over concerns about their ads showing up next to pro-Nazi content and hate speech on the site in general, with billionaire owner Elon Musk inflaming tensions with his own tweets endorsing an antisemitic conspiracy theory.

IBM said this week that it stopped advertising on X after a report said its ads were appearing alongside material praising Nazis a fresh setback as the platform formerly known as Twitter tries to win back big brands and their ad dollars, X's main source of revenue.

The liberal advocacy group Media Matters said in a report Thursday that ads from Apple, Oracle, NBCUniversal's Bravo network and Comcast also were placed next to antisemitic material on X.

"IBM has zero tolerance for hate speech and discrimination and we have immediately suspended all advertising on X while we investigate this entirely unacceptable situation," the company said in a statement.

Apple, Oracle, NBCUniversal and Comcast didn't respond immediately to requests seeking comment on their next steps.

The European Union's executive branch said separately Friday that it's pausing its advertising on X and other social media platforms, in part because of a surge in hate speech.

Musk sparked outcry this week with his own tweets responding to a user who accused Jews of hating white people and professing indifference to antisemitism.



Elon Musk, owner of social media platform X, gestures during an event with Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in London on Nov. 2, 2023.

Associated Press

"You have said the actual truth," Musk tweeted in a reply Wednesday.

Musk has faced accusations of tolerating antisemitic messages on the platform since purchasing it last year, and the content on X has gained increased scrutiny since the war between Israel and Hamas began.

"We condemn this abhorrent promotion of Antisemitic and racist hate in the strongest terms, which runs against our core values as Americans," White House spokesperson Andrew Bates said Friday in response to Musk's tweet.

X CEO Linda Yaccarino said X's "point of view has always been very clear that discrimination by everyone should STOP across the board."

"I think that's something we can and should all agree on," she tweeted Thursday. Yaccarino, a former NBCUniversal executive, was hired by Musk to rebuild ties with advertisers who fled after he took over, concerned that his easing of content restrictions was allowing hateful and toxic speech to flourish and that would harm their brands.

"When it comes to this platform X has also been extremely clear about our efforts to combat antisemitism and discrimination. There's no place for it anywhere in the world it's ugly and wrong. Full stop," Yaccarino said.

The accounts that Media Matters found posting antisemitic material will no longer be monetizable and the specific posts will be labeled "sensitive media," according to a statement from X. Still, Musk decried Media Matters as "an evil organization."

The head of the Anti-Defamation League also hit back at Musk's tweets this week, in the latest clash between the prominent Jewish civil-rights organization and the billionaire businessman.

"At a time when antisemitism is exploding in America and surging around the world, it is indisputably dangerous to use one's influence to validate and promote antisemitic theories," ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said on X.

Musk also tweeted this week that he was "deeply offended by ADL's messaging and any other groups who push de facto anti-white racism or anti-Asian racism or racism of any kind."

The group has previously accused Musk of allowing antisemitism and hate speech to spread on the platform and amplifying the messages of neo-Nazis and white supremacists who want to ban the ADL. □

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# RSV is straining some hospitals, and U.S. officials are releasing more shots for newborns

By MIKE STOBBE and  
KENYA HUNTER

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — RSV infections are rising sharply in some parts of the country, nearly filling hospital emergency departments in Georgia, Texas and some other states.

To help counter the surge, federal officials on Thursday announced they were releasing more doses of a new RSV shot for newborns that have been in short supply.

Reports of the seasonal virus are rising nationally, but experts said RSV is not expected to generate the kind of widespread patient traffic seen last fall, when hospitals were overwhelmed with sick, wheezing kids.

Nevertheless, cases will likely rise in more parts of the country and infections may be intense in some places, said Dr. Meredith McMorrow, an RSV expert at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

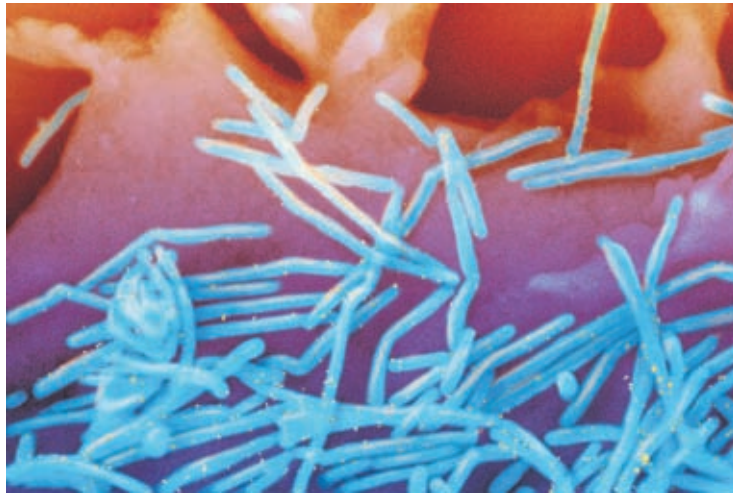
At Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas, Dr. Laura Romano said kids and parents are spending 10 or more hours in the emergency department's waiting room. Kids are presenting sicker than they have in previous years, with more in need of oxygen, Romano said.

"Last week, we had 25 kids who were waiting in the emergency room who had been admitted for a bed upstairs, including five who needed to go to our intensive care unit," she said. "We just do not have beds for them."

In Georgia, the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta hospital system is in "surge" mode because of RSV, with a high volume of patients straining staff, said Dr. Jim Fortenberry, the system's chief medical officer.

"Our emergency departments, our urgent cares are extremely busy. The pediatricians' offices are extremely busy too," Fortenberry said.

Not helping matters: The



This electron microscope image provided by the National Institutes of Health shows human respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) virions, colored blue, and anti-RSV F protein/gold antibodies, colored yellow, shedding from the surface of human lung cells. Associated Press

newly available shots to protect newborns against RSV have been difficult to get, meaning a new medical weapon is not being fully deployed.

"It was really going to help and unfortunately there is a shortage, and we at Children's are also seeing that shortage," Fortenberry said.

RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, is a common cause of mild cold-like symptoms such as runny nose, cough and fever.

Still, it can be dangerous for infants and older people. The CDC estimates that RSV causes 100 to 300 deaths and 58,000 to 80,000 hospitalizations each year among kids

aged 4 and under. It is the No. 1 cause of hospitalizations in U.S. infants, according to the CDC.

Its toll is even greater in adults 65 and older, causing 6,000 to 10,000 deaths and 60,000 to 160,000 hospitalizations, the CDC says. RSV infections fell during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic a time when many kids and adults stayed home and took precautions against respiratory viruses.

But it roared back last year. Hospitals were filled with wheezing children, many of them needing oxygen or even machines to help them breathe. The wave was bolstered by surges in other kinds of respiratory vi-

ruses, which often infected children at the same time and made their condition worse, said McMorrow, of the CDC. Some of those other viruses are circulating now, too. Data on RSV is limited, but available information shows that diagnoses in some states including Georgia, Tennessee and Virginia are near the levels seen last year. Texas has also seen a sharp rise in cases, the data suggests. There are signs, however, that the virus is already peaking in some of those states, McMorrow said.

Nationally, detections of RSV are only about half as high as they were last November. Based on the data so far, CDC officials think the current season will not be as bad as last year and will end up comparable to the kind of RSV seasons that occurred regularly before the COVID-19 pandemic, she said. □



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#### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel. 524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad:

Sta. Cruz: Tel. 585 8028

Centro Medico: Tel. 584 5794

#### Women in Difficulties

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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## Shohei Ohtani, baseball's 2-way star, becomes first 2-time unanimous MVP

By **RONALD BLUM**  
AP Baseball Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Shohei Ohtani's injury remains mysterious. His dominance is clear.

After captivating baseball with his unprecedented combination of high-level hitting and premium pitching, the two-way star became the first two-time unanimous Most Valuable Player when he won the American League honor on Thursday.

While Ohtani appeared on the televised Major League Baseball Network announcement, with a dog in his lap, the prized free agent did not speak on the media call that had been scheduled to follow.

Major League Baseball said Ohtani was not available due to circumstances beyond his control. He has not spoken with reporters since Aug. 9, two weeks before a pitching injury that required surgery and will keep him off a mound until 2025.

Before Ohtani got hurt while playing for the Los Angeles Angels and had right



Los Angeles Angels pitcher Shohei Ohtani throws against the Detroit Tigers in the fourth inning during the first baseball game of a doubleheader, Thursday, July 27, 2023, in Detroit.

Associated Press

elbow surgery on Sept. 19, there was wide speculation he could gain the first \$500 million contract in baseball history.

Ohtani had Tommy John surgery in October 2018 and his agent, Nez Balelo, did not specify complete details after the latest op-

eration.

Ohtani received all 30 first-place votes and 420 points in voting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. He was a unanimous MVP in 2021 and finished second to the Yankees' Aaron Judge in voting last year.

Atlanta's Ronald Acuña Jr. won the National League honor, and this year marked the first time since the awards began in 1931 that the winner in each league was unanimous. There have been 21 unanimous MVPs.

Corey Seager was sec-

ond with 24 second-place votes and 264 points, and Texas teammate Marcus Semien was third with five second-place votes and 216 points. Balloting took place before the postseason, when the Rangers won their first World Series title.

Ohtani led the AL with 44 homers and hit .304 with 96 RBIs, eight triples and 20 stolen bases in a season at the plate that ended Sept. 3 because of an oblique injury.

He was 10-5 with a 3.14 ERA in 23 starts on the mound, striking out 167 and walking 55 in 132 innings before tearing the ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow on Aug. 23.

Not even Babe Ruth starred at such lofty levels on the mound and at the plate in the same season. Ruth batted .300 with 11 homers and 61 RBIs in 1918 while going 13-7 with a 2.22 ERA for Boston, then hit .322 with 29 homers and 113 RBIs in 1919 while going 9-5 with a 2.97 ERA. He made just five mound appearances in his final 16 seasons. □

## Atlanta's Ronald Acuña Jr. unanimous NL Most Valuable Player after 41-homer, 73-steal season

By **RONALD BLUM**  
AP Baseball Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Ronald Acuña Jr. had been waiting for this moment.

"From the day I got to the league right away I always knew I wanted to be the MVP," the Atlanta Braves right fielder said through a translator. "It's always been a dream of mine and I'm living the dream come true."

Acuña was a unanimous winner of his first National League Most Valuable Player award on Thursday, taking home the honor after becoming the first big leaguer with 40 homers and 70 stolen bases in a season. Could he do it again, or even become the first 50-50 player?

"I'm not trying to predict

anything, but as long as I'm healthy I believe anything is possible," he said.

Los Angeles Angels two-way star Shohei Ohtani won the American League award, becoming the first two-time unanimous MVP. There have been 21 unanimous winners, and this year marked the first time two occurred in the same year. Acuña received all 30 first-place votes and 420 points in voting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Mookie Betts got all 30 second-place votes and 270 points, followed by Los Angeles Dodgers teammate Freddie Freeman with 227 points. Betts earned the 2018 AL MVP award with Boston, and Freeman was the 2020 NL MVP with At-

lanta.

Acuña was second in the NL with a .336 batting average and led the major leagues with 149 runs, 217 hits, 386 total bases and 73 stolen bases while hitting 41 home runs with 106 RBIs. A four-time All-Star who turns 26 next month, Acuña helped Atlanta to a major league-best 104 wins before the Braves lost to Philadelphia in an NL Division Series.

He set his career best for RBIs and matched his 2019 high for home runs.

Acuña learned of the award while in the clubhouse of La Guaria, his team in Venezuela's winter league. While he dropped off a scheduled national call with BBWAA members, he spoke on a Zoom with

Atlanta reporters.

He was on a possible MVP track in 2021 with 24 homers, 52 RBIs and 17 steals in 82 games before he tore his right ACL on July 10 while

attempting a catch on the warning track, an injury that ended his season.

"It meant a lot to me to be able to bounce back after I was hurt," he said. □



Atlanta Braves right fielder Ronald Acuña Jr. beats the throw to steal second base in the third inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, Tuesday, May 23, 2023, in Atlanta.

Associated Press



# No Joe Burrow means no chance for the Cincinnati Bengals

By **ROB MAADDI**  
AP Pro Football Writer

Joe Burrow shook his head, screamed and jogged to the locker room because the pain in his right wrist wouldn't allow him to throw a football on the sideline. Another week in the NFL, another injured quarterback.

Burrow is no ordinary QB, however. He's the franchise for Cincinnati. With him, the Bengals were Super Bowl contenders. They've won consecutive division titles and an AFC crown. Without him, they have no chance.

Aaron Rodgers. Kirk Cousins. Anthony Richardson. Daniel Jones. Deshaun Watson. Now Burrow.

Burrow exited Thursday night's game in the second quarter, a devastating blow for the Bengals, who went from leading the Baltimore Ravens 10-7 with their star player to losing 34-20. The Bengals (5-5) have lost two in a row and are last in the competitive AFC North. Coach Zac Taylor said Burrow has a sprained wrist but the severity of the injury wasn't immediately known. It's uncertain when Burrow will return.

Burrow missed training



Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow (9) looks on at the sideline in the second half of an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens in Baltimore, Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

camp with a calf injury that limited him the first month of the season. He was rusty during an 0-2 start. But once Burrow started feeling better, the Bengals got going. They won four in a row, including impressive victories over Seattle, San Francisco and Buffalo before losing to Houston last week.

Jake Browning had thrown one career pass before he replaced Burrow against

the Ravens. He'll face the Steelers (6-3) next week if Burrow can't play.

No matter how much the NFL tries to protect quarterbacks, they're going down at an alarming rate.

The New York Jets lost Rodgers in Week 1 when he suffered a torn Achilles tendon on the fourth play of his first game with his new team. The Jets (4-5) haven't recovered. Their offense has

been dismal with Zach Wilson. Rodgers is aiming for a return in mid-December, but New York could be out of the playoff race by then. The Minnesota Vikings lost Cousins for the rest of the season to a torn Achilles tendon in Week 8. They traded for Joshua Dobbs two days later and he has led the Vikings (6-4) to a pair of victories to extend their winning streak to five

games.

Richardson, the No. 4 overall draft pick in April, played in only four games for Indianapolis before having season-ending shoulder surgery. The Colts (5-5) have stayed in the playoff mix with backup Gardner Minshew.

Jones missed three games with a neck injury and then tore his ACL in his first game back with the Giants in Week 9. Backup Tyrod Taylor has missed two straight games with a rib injury, forcing New York (2-8) to turn to undrafted rookie Tommy DeVito.

The Cleveland Browns lost Watson for the remainder of the season to a shoulder injury after he led them to a comeback win over Baltimore last Sunday. The Browns (6-3) now try to make a playoff push with rookie Dorian Thompson-Robinson.

Matthew Stafford, Justin Fields, Ryan Tannehill and Jimmy Garoppolo have also missed games this season. Tannehill and Garoppolo eventually lost their starting jobs.

The Saints turned to Jamies Winston last Sunday after Derek Carr came out with concussion symptoms. □

## Carlos Alcaraz sets up semifinal match against Djokovic at ATP Finals

**TURIN, Italy (AP)** — Carlos Alcaraz leaned back, looked up and yelled in celebration.

The Spaniard had just secured a spot in the semifinals of the ATP Finals in his tournament debut, setting up a match against top-ranked Novak Djokovic.

"Vamos, vamos," Spanish for "Come on, come

on," Alcaraz shouted as he clenched his fists after beating Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 6-4 on Friday.

"It's one of the most difficult challenges that I'm going to face, facing Novak in the ATP Finals, where he has won six times," Alcaraz said. "Novak is Novak. He is the best player in the world right now. He's lost just six matches this year, he's unbelievable."

Alcaraz and Djokovic have played each other four times and won two each. Djokovic won their most recent encounter in the final in Cincinnati in August, while Alcaraz beat the Serb in the Wimbledon final.

"I'm going to play my best tennis and enjoy it the same way I did the past

few matches," Alcaraz said. "I'm excited to face Novak." The 20-year-old Alcaraz is the youngest ATP Finals semifinalist since Rafael Nadal in 2006.

But Alcaraz, who missed last year's tournament because of an abdominal injury, got off to a shaky start at the season-ending event for the year's top eight players.

He lost his opening match to two-time champion Alexander Zverev before getting back on track with a straight-set win over Andrey Rublev.

That left him needing to beat Medvedev, who had already qualified for the semifinals, to advance. The Russian didn't make it easy. Medvedev had two break

points in the fourth game but Alcaraz came out on top of a 33-shot rally and then produced another big serve before going on to hold.

In the seventh game, Alcaraz broke Medvedev to love for the lead. He then held three set points but needed only one to take the opener with a powerful, cross-court backhand.

After wasting two break points in the third game of the second set, Alcaraz got the decisive break when Medvedev double-faulted to allow the Spaniard to serve for the match.

"This match was really, really tough ... but everything I did before this match I did almost perfectly so I'm really happy," Alcaraz said. □



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates after winning the singles tennis match against Russia's Daniil Medvedev, of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Pala Alpitour, in Turin, Italy, Friday, Nov. 17, 2023.

Associated Press



# Weekly SPECIALS



<p><b>WAS \$22.85</b></p> <p><b>\$18.85</b></p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Angus Top Sirloin Steak</p>	<p><b>WAS \$9.99</b></p> <p><b>\$7.71</b></p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Pork Strips Gyros</p>	<p><b>WAS \$4.54</b></p> <p><b>\$3.29</b></p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Cabbage Napa</p>	<p><b>WAS \$5.11</b></p> <p><b>\$4.28</b></p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Persimmon Hachiya</p>
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<p><b>WAS \$2.83</b></p> <p><b>\$2.14</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Pear Asian</p>	<p><b>WAS \$7.71</b></p> <p><b>\$6.57</b></p> <p>Per BAG</p>  <p>Juice Oranges 4lbs Florida</p>	<p><b>WAS \$6.85</b></p> <p><b>\$5.71</b></p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Chicken Drumsticks</p>	<p><b>WAS \$5.68</b></p> <p><b>\$4.28</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Kraft Mozzarella Finely Shredded 8oz</p>	<p><b>WAS \$0.77</b></p> <p><b>\$0.57</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Rum Ball</p>
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**DIARY/FROZEN**

<p><b>WAS \$4.28</b></p> <p><b>\$3.25</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Nestle Coffee Mate Creamer Hazelnut 16oz</p>	<p><b>WAS \$3.97</b></p> <p><b>\$3.02</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Danish Chef Knoss spread Naturel 85gr</p>
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**HBC/GM**

<p><b>WAS \$5.37</b></p> <p><b>\$3.99</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Arm &amp; Hammer Deodorant Ultra Max Powder Fresh</p>	<p><b>WAS \$2.85</b></p> <p><b>\$2.57</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Waxtex Waxed Paper 25.2yd</p>
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**DELI/BAKERY**

<p><b>WAS \$1.54</b></p> <p><b>\$1.25</b></p> <p>100 GR</p>  <p>Mozzarella Loaf</p>	<p><b>WAS \$1.88</b></p> <p><b>\$1.54</b></p> <p>100 GR</p>  <p>Mortadella</p>
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## DRY FOOD

<p><b>WAS \$1.88</b></p> <p><b>\$1.71</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Goodburry Strawberry Spread 450gr</p>	<p><b>WAS \$1.88</b></p> <p><b>\$1.88</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Frescampo Raisins 200g</p>	<p><b>WAS \$2.80</b></p> <p><b>\$2.28</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Frescampo Maraschino Cherries 250g</p>	<p><b>WAS \$5.65</b></p> <p><b>\$4.97</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Gwaan Witte Wijnazijn 500mlt</p>	<p><b>WAS \$5.65</b></p> <p><b>\$4.97</b></p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Hawaiian Punch Fruit Juicy Red 128oz</p>
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